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**The President**

**M. Christophe REGNARD,**  
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To

**M. Bekir Bozdog**  
**Minister of Justice**  
**Adalet Bakanlığı 06659 KIZILAY / ANKARA**  
**Turkey**

Your Excellency,

We greatly appreciate the letter of July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, from Mr Selhattin MENTES, Deputy Undersecretary, in response to the concerns expressed in my letter of March 22nd, 2014.

It is most encouraging that the Turkish government shares our concerns regarding the protection and strengthening of judicial independence and impartiality and the separation of powers in Turkey. Looking forward, with the election process having been completed, we hope that the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors will duly fulfill its task of fostering and further promoting judicial independence and separation of powers in Turkey.

As regards your concerns that we might not be fully informed about the situation of the Judiciary in Turkey, we consider that Yarsav is a reliable member of the EAJ. Importantly, the information provided by Yarsav was supported by different independent sources such as various European institutions, Human Rights Watch, Freedom House and others. We regret that the meeting arranged between the Supreme Election Board and representatives of EAJ was cancelled by Board and your Ministry did not reply to our request for a meeting.

While the new High Council of Judges and Prosecutors is now established and ready to begin its task, it is important that it should carry out its functions in ways which, in their results, bring about judicial independence in practice.

The EAJ has a particular concern regarding the need for maintenance of, the tenure and irremovability of judges. The transfer, or threat of transfer, of a judge may be used improperly and in that respect I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to the members of the High Council of Judges and Prosecutors which discusses this in more detail.

I respectfully wish you success in your mission of fostering judicial independence, separation of powers and the rule of law in Turkey and the EAJ looks forward to further cooperation with you in this respect.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. J. J.', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Copy to Yarsav

**International Association of Judges**  
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Union Internationale de Magistrados  
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